THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Permanent Lok Adalat (Other Terms and Conditions of Appointment of Chairman and Other Persons) Rules, 2003 provide for sitting fee and other allowances of the Chairman and other persons of the permanent Lok Adalat, terms of conditions of service of Chairman and other persons, their resignation and removal, procedure for inquiry, place of sitting and staff of permanent Lok Adalat.

(c) The Legal Services Authorities (Amendment) Act, 2002 has come into force with effect from 11th June, 2002 on which the Act received the assent of the President.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of National Judicial Commission

1184. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:
PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a National Judicial Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the functions, organisational structure, jurisdiction and duties proposed to be assigned to the Commission;

(d) whether the various political parties, different State Governments, the legal experts, luminaries, the Bar Council of India and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court have been consulted in the matter;

(e) if so, their response to the proposal; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (f) The Government is committed to setting up of a National Judicial Commission, which would make recommendations for appointments of

Judges/Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the High Courts as also draw up a Code of Ethics for the Judges.

As part of the process of building up the national consensus to set up the National Judicial Commission, Political parties have been requested to communicate their views in this regard. As setting up of the Commission would involve amendment to the Constitution of India it will not be feasible to indicate a time-frame in this regard.

SC and ST Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts

†1185. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of SC/ST Judges in various High Courts and Supreme Court of the country, state-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to appoint Judges belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in proportion of the population of SCs and STs; and

(c) if so, by when the appointments are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts are made under articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India respectively which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. No statistics is, therefore, maintained for the number of Judges belonging to SC/ST in Supreme Court of India or the High Courts.

The Government have, however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.